

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-44 were rejected. Claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 are amended in this Amendment. Claims 1-44 remain at issue in the above-identified application.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.83(a) for failing to show Figure 10 as described in the specification. Although figures 1-10 were submitted with the application, it appears that Applicants, when submitting replacement drawings on March 5, 2001, inadvertently provided only figures 1-9. Per Applicants' representative's discussion with the Examiner on July 18, 2005, Applicant hereby submits replacement drawings 1-10. No new matter has been added in these drawings. Accordingly, Applicants request withdrawal of these rejections.

35 U.S.C. §101 Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §101. Specifically, the Examiner stated that claims 1-11 can reflect a series of mental/manual steps and that claims 12-33 are software per se and not tangibly embodied to a computer system. Although Applicants do not agree with the Examiner's arguments, Applicants have hereby amended the preamble of independent claim 1 to recite that it is a "method of storing a spreadsheet file in a data processing system." The preamble of claims 12 and 23 have also been amended to recite a "data processing apparatus." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C §103(a) Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,280,575 (*Young et al.*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner notes that while Applicant's prior arguments were persuasive, certain of the features relied on in Applicants' arguments are not recited in the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended claims 1, 12, 23, and 34 to recite that the access data stored allows for "indexing of spreadsheet cell data."

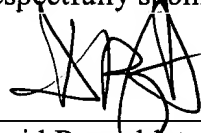
Applicants respectfully submit that *Young et al.* does not teach or suggest at least "storing on a second record access data of said spreadsheet file for indexing of spreadsheet cell data" as recited, for example, in amended claim 1. As previously brought to the Examiner's attention in the Response After Final dated January 31, 2005, *Young et al.* discloses simple storage of cell data in cells without any means to efficiently index or access the cell data. *Young et al.* does not disclose the storage of access data on a separate record to allow for indexing or access to cell data. In fact, *Young et al.* teaches that column data is stored in the same area as the actual table data. For example, *Young et al.* states that "the table contents portion 13 may include one or more tables each defined by a table definition 59...which stores information concerning the table and...stores the actual table data." Col. 5, lines 61-67. *Young et al.* also states that the "tabular data structure 10 thus provides a data structure in which rows, as well as cells in each row, may be close packed, by use of the row identifie[r]s in row number field 92 and the cell column identifiers in the cell column number field 100." Col. 8, lines 48-52. Thus, *Young et al.* does not disclose any separate record for storing "access data of said spreadsheet file for indexing of spreadsheet cell data."

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the cited reference *Young et al.* and requests the rejection be withdrawn. As claims 2-11 depend from claim 1, the Applicants respectfully submit they are also patentable over *Young et al.* for at least the same reasons.

For the reason stated above with respect to claim 1, Applicants also submit that the rejection of independent claims 12, 23, and 34 should be withdrawn. As claims 13-22, 24-33, and 35-44 depend from claims 12, 23, and 34 respectively, Applicants submit they are patentable as well for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all claims are allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,



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By: _____

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